

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1468

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2007

Ms. MIKULSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Burial Bene-  
5       fits Improvement Act of 2007”.

6       **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN BURIAL AND FUNERAL BENEFITS FOR**  
7       **VETERANS.**

8       (a) INCREASE IN BURIAL AND FUNERAL EXPENSES  
9       AND PROVISION FOR ANNUAL COST-OF-LIVING ADJUST-  
10       MENT.—

1           (1) EXPENSES GENERALLY.—Section 2302(a)  
 2           of title 38, United States Code, is amended by strik-  
 3           ing “\$300” and inserting “\$1,270 (as increased  
 4           from time to time under section 2309 of this title)”.

5           (2) EXPENSES FOR DEATHS IN DEPARTMENT  
 6           FACILITIES.—Section 2303(a)(1)(A) of such title is  
 7           amended by striking “\$300” and inserting “\$1,270  
 8           (as increased from time to time under section 2309  
 9           of this title)”.

10          (3) EXPENSES FOR DEATHS FROM SERVICE-  
 11          CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—Section 2307 of such  
 12          title is amended by striking “\$2,000,” and inserting  
 13          “\$4,100 (as increased from time to time under sec-  
 14          tion 2309 of this title),”.

15          (b) PLOT ALLOWANCE.—Section 2303(b) of such  
 16          title is amended—

17               (1) by striking “\$300” the first place it appears  
 18               and inserting “\$745 (as increased from time to time  
 19               under section 2309 of this title)”; and

20               (2) by striking “\$300” the second place it ap-  
 21               pears and inserting “\$745 (as so increased)”.

22          (c) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT.—

23               (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 23 of such title is  
 24               amended by adding at the end the following new sec-  
 25               tion:

1 **“§ 2309. Annual adjustment of amounts of burial ben-**  
 2 **efits**

3 “With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary shall  
 4 provide a percentage increase (rounded to the nearest dol-  
 5 lar) in the burial and funeral expenses under sections  
 6 2302(a), 2303(a), and 2307 of this title, and in the plot  
 7 allowance under section 2303(b) of this title, equal to the  
 8 percentage by which—

9 “(1) the Consumer Price Index (all items,  
 10 United States city average) for the 12-month period  
 11 ending on the June 30 preceding the beginning of  
 12 the fiscal year for which the increase is made, ex-  
 13 ceeds

14 “(2) the Consumer Price Index for the 12-  
 15 month period preceding the 12-month period de-  
 16 scribed in paragraph (1).”.

17 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
 18 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
 19 by adding at the end the following new item:

“2309. Annual adjustment of amounts of burial benefits.”.

20 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
 22 graph (2), the amendments made by this section  
 23 shall apply to deaths occurring on or after the date  
 24 of the enactment of this Act.

1           (2) PROHIBITION ON COST-OF-LIVING ADJUST-  
2       MENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008.—No adjustments  
3       shall be made under section 2309 of title 38, United  
4       States Code, as added by subsection (c), for fiscal  
5       year 2008.

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